

First Lady delivers remarks at Hiring Our Heroes job fair

Story and photo by David D. Underwood Jr.

The Hickam Officers Club hosted a job fair Nov. 14, and First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama made a special appearance at the event.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce sponsored Hiring Our Heroes, a program developed in March 2011 to help veterans and military family members find employment after leaving the military.

Kevin M. Schmiegel, vice president of the Veterans Employment Program at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, leads the program and is responsible for connecting employers with military members and their families transitioning from active duty to the private sector.

"This is the 68th hiring event since the program began in March, and over 3,000 employers in 38 states have been connected to 58,000 vets and military spouses," Schmiegel said. "Just over 3,600 have gotten jobs," he said. He also said it is important for people in Hawaii to know about the program to help connect them to nationwide employers when they relocate back to the mainland.



First Lady Michelle Obama speaks to military members, veterans and military families during the U.S. Chamber of Commerce sponsored Hiring Our Heroes event at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii on Nov 14.

The First Lady thanked Schmiegel for his leadership, and pulling together job fairs around the country. She thanked Capt. Jeffrey James, commander, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) and his family for

his outstanding leadership and for hosting her for the event. And she thanked the men and women in uniform, the veterans and the extraordinary military family members for their sacrifices, signing up to serve in

time of war, enduring deployment after deployment, and being away from loved ones for months and sometimes years on end.

Obama said she knows transitioning from the military during a tough economy

can be stressful, but military members are some of the highest skilled, hardest working, most dedicated employees in the country, and that's important for the country to know. "As my husband said, 'No one who's

fought for our country abroad should have to fight for a job when they return home," she said.

This is why she and Dr. Jill Biden started Joining Forces to rally all of America to recognize, honor and support veterans and military families. They issued a challenge to America's businesses to step up and hire as many veterans and military spouses as they can.

There were 63 participating employers and service organizations at the JBPHH event and 386 registered job seekers.

Margarete Olson of Success Advertising sponsors job fairs at the Blaisdell Center every four months, and tries to get sponsors to pay for military members so they can attend their events for free. She has partnered with Hiring Our Heroes.

Kathy Custer was another participating employer at the event. She is founder of Keikisitters.com, an online mobile service that helps local families find local sitters.

The Hiring Our Heroes program is a nationwide effort. There are 34 more hiring fairs scheduled before the end of March 2012.

World leaders arrive at JBPHH for APEC

U.S. Air Force photo by SrA Lauren Main

(Top) Hawaii Governor Neil Abercrombie and Adm. Robert F. Willard, commander, U.S. Pacific Command, greet President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama during their arrival at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit Nov. 10. APEC is the premier economic forum in the Asia-Pacific region. Established in 1989 and comprising 21 member economies from around the Pacific Rim, including the U.S., APEC fosters growth and prosperity by facilitating economic cooperation and expanding trade and investment throughout the region.

U.S. Air Force photo by Maj. Alysia Harvey

(Left) Brig. Gen. Scott West, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces Deputy Director of Operations, Plans, Requirements and Programs, welcomes Chile's President Sebastian Pinera to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit Nov. 11.

Air Force photo by Maj. Alysia Harvey

(Right) Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and his delegation are welcomed by Maj. Gen. Jon Shasteen, mobilization assistant to the commander, Pacific Air Forces, to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, Nov. 11.

(See more photos on page A-5.)



Smith to hand reins to Ponds as Commander, Navy Region Hawaii

Hawaii governor proclaims Nov. 18 'Admiral Dixon Smith Day'

Commander Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Rear Adm. Dixon R. Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, will relinquish command to Rear Adm. Fernandez "Frank" Ponds on Nov. 18. The time-honored Navy change of command ceremony will be held adjacent to the Battleship Missouri Memorial starting at 10 a.m.

In addition, Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie and Lt. Gov. Brian Schatz have issued a proclamation declaring Nov. 18, 2011 as "Admiral Dixon Smith Day" in Hawaii, "commending Admiral Dixon Smith for his outstanding contributions to the United States Navy and our local communities."

Abercrombie, Schatz, Mayor Peter Carlisle and Mayor Bernard Carvalho Jr. are among the dignitaries who are scheduled to attend. Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Adm. Patrick Walsh and Commander, Naval Installations Command Vice Adm. Michael Vitale will be the senior officers in the official party.

Several hundred guests

are expected to attend today's ceremony. During the ceremony, a saluting battery is scheduled to fire a volley.

Renowned singer and actor Jim Nabors will perform the National Anthem to begin the ceremony. Hawaiian music legend Henry Kaponu will perform Hawai'i Pono'i. As a special tribute at the conclusion of the ceremony, Kaponu will perform a song he wrote and recorded to honor men and women of the armed services.

Smith concludes a three-year tour in which he increased community engagement and historic preservation. He oversaw the further transfer of 1995 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) property

and infrastructure at the former Naval Air Station Barbers Point and provided regional leadership in the creation of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. He implemented the Navy's pilot Resident Energy Conservation Program, saving \$1.2M per year in reduced electricity consumption. Smith also led the Middle Pacific Surface Combatant initiative to ensure his 11 surface ships homeported in Hawaii are trained and ready at all times to operate forward.

His spouse, Christine "Kiki" Smith, was a leader on behalf of family members, volunteering hundreds of hours with the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society, Friends of Fleet and Family Services,

Continuum of Resource Education and Boutiki Gift shop.

The Smiths will return to San Diego where Rear Adm. Smith will assume command as Commander, Navy Region Southwest.

Ponds, a native of Alabama, commanded Amphibious Squadron Eight from November 2007 to May 2009 as Kearsarge Expeditionary Strike Group commander in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, Counter Piracy Operations, and Operation Sea Angel II (Bangladesh Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief). He also served as mission commander for Operation Continuing

Promise (2008) and Haiti Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Operation 2008.

Among his shore assignments, Ponds served as senior naval advisor in the Bureau of Political Military Affairs, Department of State during 2005 Pakistan Earthquake Relief Operations, 2006 Lebanon Non-combatant Evacuation Operation (NEO), and Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief. He was a senior fellow on the 2010 Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group. Ponds is married to Carol Ponds.

See Abercrombie's complete proclamation at <http://1.usa.gov/uEdUk7>.



Veterans Day See page A-2



Navy Exchange gears up for 'Black Friday' weekend sales See page A-3



Change of command ceremonies See page A-4



USS Chafee gets trained and ready in Koa Kai 12-1 See page A-8



Sports: Na Koa Ke Kai comes back to defeat COMPACFLT See page B-1



Tower lighting, Tops in Blue performance set for Dec. 2 See page B-2

VETERANS DAY

We remember & honor those who served & sacrificed

Battleship Missouri Memorial hosts Veterans Day ceremony

Story and photos by
MCSN Dustin W. Sisco

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West Det
Hawaii

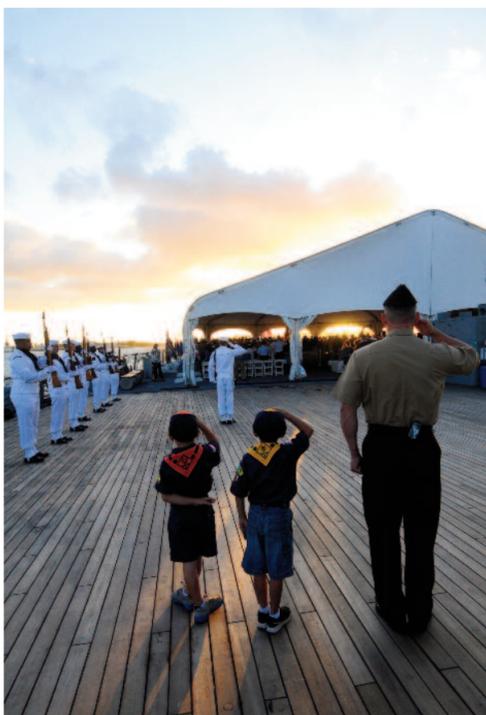
Veterans, service members and their families attended a Veterans Day Sunset Ceremony at the Battleship Missouri Memorial at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) on Nov. 11.

The ceremony was held to honor veterans who were killed or injured during their service in the military.

"We are grateful for the personal sacrifices they have made in order to protect our country," said Lt. Steven Voris, the chaplain who gave the invocation and benediction during the ceremony. "Veterans Day should not happen once a year but should be a spirit of honor that is celebrated daily."

The event began with the U.S. Joint Service Color Guard parading the colors, along with the singing of the National Anthem and the Hawaii state anthem.

After opening remarks and an address from a for-



(Clockwise from top) The Navy Region Hawaii Honor Guard gives a rifle volley salute during the Veterans Day Sunset Ceremony on the Battleship Missouri Memorial at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Aviation Warfare Systems (Mechanic) 1st class Francis McLaughlin and his two children salute during Echo Taps at the Veterans Day Sunset Ceremony. Attendees of the Veterans Day Sunset Ceremony, bow their heads in remembrance and respect to the veterans who gave their lives serving in the military.

mer USS Missouri crew member, the JBPHH Old Glory Detail performed the ceremony of passing the flag through the ranks of service members.

After the ceremony, Aviation Warfare Systems (Mechanic) 1st Class Francis McLaughlin expressed his feelings about honor and remembrance on Veterans Day.

"My service doesn't compare to the guys who gave their lives or were wounded in combat," McLaughlin said. "There are so many people who have sacrificed so much more."

Sgt. 1st Class Ernest Smith expressed his appreciation for being at the ceremony and aboard the memorial.

"We are fortunate to be able to come on to the ship and actually experience these things along with the veterans who served on this ship, and give honor to the ones who sacrificed their lives," Smith said. "We should be more thankful to them because of what they've done for us. I wouldn't be here with the freedom that I've got if it weren't for what they did for us."

Pacific submarine community remembers veterans

Story and photo by
MC2 (SW/AW/SCW)
Ronald Gutridge

Commander Submarine
Force U.S. Pacific Fleet
Public Affairs Office

The Pearl Harbor Submarine Park and Parche Memorial at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam was the setting for a Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11. Retired and active duty submariners and guests gathered to pay tribute to the World War II submarines on "eternal patrol" and all veterans who have served in the defense of our country.

The ceremony opened with cadets from Radford High School Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps posting the 50 state flags followed by the parading of the colors as the



Retired submarine veteran, Yeoman 1st Class (SS) Al Shoehigh, places a lei on the plaque of each World War II submarine on "eternal patrol" during the Veterans Day ceremony held at the Pearl Harbor Submarine Park and Parche Memorial on Nov. 11.

Pacific Fleet Band performed the National Anthem.

A roll call followed, consisting of a tolling of the bell for each submarine lost and a presentation of a special lei to the USS Growler (SS 215), the Hawaii Chapter - U.S. Submarine Veterans of WWII designated state submarine lost in WWII.

The guest speaker was Rear Adm. James F. Caldwell, commander Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet, who reflected on the World War II submarines on "eternal patrol" and the sacrifice and heroism of their crews as well as all the submariners who have followed their paths.

"Some of you here have gone to sea in submarines - gone to sea away from your families and loved ones for months on end. And you do that selflessly, proudly and without hesitation," Caldwell said. "Veterans

Day is about honoring that culture. Service before self. And it is an opportunity to celebrate the choice one makes to serve our country."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Regional Ceremonial Guard performed a 21-gun salute and Musician 3rd Class Geoffrey Scheusner played Taps.

Originally, Nov. 11 marked "Armistice Day," commemorating Nov. 11, 1918, the day fighting ended World War I. In the U.S., Congress established Armistice Day as a national holiday in 1938, according to documents at the Veterans Affairs Department. But the holiday was later extended to honor all veterans when World War II broke out. In 1954, Congress passed a bill renaming Armistice Day as Veterans Day.

USS Reuben James Sailors clean Navy plot at the Oahu Cemetery

Story and photo by
David D. Underwood Jr.

A crew of 20 Sailors from USS Reuben James (FFG 57) and from Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific cleaned headstones and pulled weeds around 177 gravesites Nov. 10, the day before Veterans Day, at the Oahu Cemetery on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The plot, which is about 80 by 40 yards, was purchased by the Navy in 1935 and is maintained twice a year by the Surface Navy Association (SNA) through a trust fund.

The SNA sponsors a cleanup before Memorial Day and before Veterans Day and seeks volunteers to head the projects. Reuben James stepped up to the plate for this duty.

"We hosted this event to pay



(Above) A volunteer from the USS Reuben James, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, cleans a headstone at the Oahu Cemetery on Nov. 10. (Right) Chief Cryptologic Technician (Technical)(CTTC) Robert Zimmerman, a volunteer from the USS Reuben James, cleans a headstone at the Oahu Cemetery.

tribute to our fallen shipmates and their families by cleaning their headstones and sprucing

up their final resting place", said Lt. j.g. Kyle A. Alwert, training officer aboard USS

Reuben James. "We cleaned up the area and finished it off with a closing prayer."

This was the first time Reuben James participated in the biannual cleanup.

Assistance in carrying out this project came from harbor pilot Capt. Mike Freeman.



Speakers honor veterans at Punchbowl

US Navy photos by Pedro Valdez

(Left) U.S. Navy Adm. Robert F. Willard, commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, delivers his keynote speech during the Veterans Day ceremony at the National Cemetery of the Pacific on Nov. 11.

(Right) Julia Gillard, prime minister of Australia, serves as distinguished speaker at the Veterans Day ceremony at the National Cemetery of the Pacific on Nov. 11. At left of her is Adm. Robert F. Willard, commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, who served as keynote speaker for the ceremony.



USS Hopper returns to homeport after helping peaceful transition in Iraq

Story and photo by
MCSN Dustin W. Sisco

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West Det.
Hawaii

The Arleigh-Burke class guided-missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG-70) returned home to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) from a seven-month independent deployment Nov. 14.

The ship was greeted by families, friends and co-workers waiting anxiously pier-side for their loved ones to cross the brow.

Operations Specialist 2nd Class Mitchell Seitz expressed how he feels about the families of the Hopper.

"We really appreciate them being home and supporting the Sailors out at sea," Seitz said. "They're always there to help us, they're always sending us



The guided-missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG-70) pulls in to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) on Nov. 14 after returning from a seven-month independent deployment. While on deployment, the Hopper conducted Ballistic Missile Defense Operations, as well as maritime interdiction operations and theater security cooperation, supporting the nation's Maritime Strategy.

e-mails and packages, and it really helps the morale of the ship and helps boost the confidence and

lets the people go the distance in order to make it through the actual deployment."

The Hopper conducted a change of command ceremony Nov. 4 while on the return home. Cmdr.

Kevin A. Melody was relieved by Cmdr. Abdel I. Lopez, who also spoke about the Sailors aboard the Hopper and their families.

"I am extremely proud of the hard work and dedication of the officers and Sailors aboard the USS Hopper during this seven-month deployment," Lopez said. "They have gone above and beyond the call of duty, executing our demanding operational schedule while keeping a steady eye on the maintenance and inspections that await our return."

"I am also very proud of the families of Hopper back home that have supported us so well. Their hard work and devotion to maintaining the home front made it possible for us to remain focused at the 'tip of the spear,'" Lopez said.

While on deployment,

Hopper served as an embarkation platform in the transition of the Iraqi maritime mission back to the government of Iraq and directly contributed to the safe transfer of more than 8.5 billion dollars in Iraqi oil to countries around the world.

The crew of more than 275 Sailors conducted ballistic missile defense operations, as well as maritime interdiction operations and theater security cooperation, supporting the nation's maritime strategy.

One Sailor stationed aboard the Hopper expressed his feelings about coming home from a successful deployment.

Engineman 2nd Class Cory Iles said, "It's good to come home with a mission accomplished."

(See additional photos on page A-5)

Navy Exchange gears up for 'Black Friday' weekend sales

Safety of shoppers is paramount

Karen S. Spangler

Managing Editor

With the Black Friday shopping day just one week away, the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange (NEX) security staff is working hard to ensure that shoppers will enjoy a safe and happy holiday shopping experience.

"Our mission to provide

a safe and secure shopping environment is paramount year round, but we execute additional measures during the holidays due to the heavier foot traffic in the store. Because it is the big holiday kick-off, we make every effort to ensure the safety of our patrons. It is our number-one priority," explained Kevin Mackenzie, district loss prevention and safety manager for Pearl Harbor NEX stores.

According to Mackenzie, planning for the big Black Friday event begins in August of each year. The loss prevention team uses

various measures to ensure that everything runs smoothly for customers on the big shopping day. The team spends part of Thanksgiving Day deploying crowd control barriers to guide patrons in an orderly fashion into the store. Then they return in the wee hours of the Black Friday shopping day to make final preparations.

Additional precautions are implemented with the help of the Navy chief community, base police, Federal Fire Department and escalator/elevator technicians. A fully staffed loss prevention department is also on the job 24/7, utilizing a state-of-the-art surveillance system.

Then the doors to the exchange open, and Black

Friday shopping begins. IDs are pre-checked to ensure authorized patronage on the morning of Black Friday and are checked again at the point of sale.

"All this preparation has proved to be time well spent as we have received rave reviews from our patrons regarding how safe they feel shopping at NEX compared to other retailers," Mackenzie said.

Black Friday and the weekend following the biggest shopping day of the year have historically generated extra high volume sales for the NEX. Last year, that support helped NEX Hawaii generate more than \$5.4 million in sales on Black Friday and \$8.4 million for the week-

end, ranking as both the highest volume day and weekend in the 65-year history of the NEX. This year, the NEX plans to deliver 8 percent more.

NEX officials and Navy leadership remind customers that shopping at the NEX/BX is a privilege for authorized shoppers. Sponsorship of guests is permitted as follows:

- Authorized patrons are allowed two guests. (Guests must have picture ID.)
- Patrons must be 18 or older to sponsor guests.
- Only authorized patrons are allowed to present payment at point of sale for goods.

NEX shoppers are also reminded that the store is a part of the Joint Base

Pearl Harbor-Hickam command, and good order and discipline is expected of all. Customers should follow the appropriate code of conduct and dress code when shopping at the NEX.

Make sure your shopping experience is a happy one by following security and safety guidelines:

- Look out for pedestrian traffic at all times in the parking lot.
- Lock your vehicles while holiday shopping.
- Report any suspicious activity to NEX loss prevention at 421-3475.

Diverse Views



"For your holiday shopping, do you prefer Black Friday or Cyber Monday, and why?"



IT1 Ash Ortiz
NIOD Kaneohe Bay

"Black Friday is better. I am all about getting to the stores and grabbing the bargains first."

CS Seaman Lee Leang
USS Olympia



"Black Friday is a good time to go out and shop. You get to see and feel the actual product before you buy, and it's easier to return any items you don't like."



IT Seaman Cara Arsenault
NCTAMS PAC

"Hands down Cyber Monday. No people, no pushing, and no annoying music to listen to. That's my kind of shopping."

SrA Ariadni Eyman
647th Contracting Squadron



"Black Friday! If you prepare for it, it's really not so bad. The rush is part of the fun."



Chaplain Deborah Hughley
647th Air Base Group

"I am not a fan of either. I am just thankful for Jesus."

Staff Sgt. Jamie Girardi
15th Operations Support Squadron



"I don't think Black Friday is worth the hassle of dealing with the crazy mob-like scenes. To be honest, I have never heard of Cyber Monday."

(Provided by IT2 Cicely D. Wiggins and David D. Underwood Jr.)

Want to see your command featured in Diverse Views?
Got opinions to share?

Drop us a line at editor@hookelenews.com or karen.spangler@navy.mil

Aircraft named after Hawaiian Honeycreeper



Photo courtesy of T. Merrill

A McDonnell Douglas F-4C Phantom Number 64-806 assigned to the 199th Fighter Squadron of the Hawaii Air National Guard, is shown taxiing at the former Hickam Air Force Base in the 1980s. The four red stars signify aerial "kills" attributed to the aircraft when it was assigned to a previous unit during the Vietnam War. This aircraft was christened "I' Iwi." The I' Iwi is the Hawaiian Honeycreeper, a beautiful scarlet bird that is endemic to Hawaii and whose feathers were used extensively by Native Hawaiians in capes that signified prestige and power.

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Jazzmin Williams

Layout/Design
Antonio Verceluz

Layout/Design
Michael Villafuerte

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Lopez relieves Melody as USS Hopper CO



U.S. Navy photo by GSMC (SW) Hector Gamez

Cmdr. Kevin Melody, outgoing commanding officer of guided-missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70), salutes during the rendering of honors onboard the ship. Melody was relieved by Cmdr. Al Lopez on Nov. 4 at Apra Harbor, Guam.

Ensign Matthew Lai
USS Hopper (DDG 70)
Public Affairs Officer

APRA HARBOR, GUAM – Cmdr. Abdel I. Lopez relieved Cmdr. Kevin A. Melody as commanding officer of USS Hopper (DDG 70) during a change of command ceremony Nov. 4 in Apra Harbor, Guam.

Melody, who commanded Hopper for two years, left behind a legacy of high standards and excellence, including COMPACFLT Best AFTP Deployed Unit, energy conservation award, and other recognition and accomplishments.

“Hopper is accomplishing things and has accom-

plished things this deployment and the last during Cmdr. Melody’s tour because he has placed you on a path of excellence,” said Capt. Wallace Lovely, deputy commodore of Destroyer Squadron 31, during the change of command ceremony.

“You, the officers and crew of USS Hopper, have successfully executed the ship’s mission that provides for this nation’s security,” said Melody during his farewell address to the crew. He expressed gratitude for Hopper’s family and supporters back home in Hawaii. Melody will next be assigned to the Missile Defense Agency in Dahlgren, Va.

Lopez assumed command after serving as the executive officer of Hopper from February 2010 to October 2011.

Lopez took time to reflect on his new command and the legacy left behind from Melody. “As your XO for 18 months, I’ve seen some of the correspondences, read some of the emails, scheduled some of your office calls with the bosses, and I know how deeply you cared about the success of the Sailors on this ship, and how strongly you’ve strived to do the right thing by the nation and the Sailors. You’ve been an excellent steward of this nation’s most precious resources.”



U.S. Navy photo by Seaman Rachel Swiatnicki

USS O’Kane welcomes new CO at change of command ceremony

Ensign Katherine Kazimer

USS O’Kane (DDG 77)
Public Affairs

In a time-honored ceremony held on the pier beside USS O’Kane on Nov. 7, Cmdr. Michael Ray relieved Cmdr. Derek Trinke as commanding officer.

Trinke departed after an 18-month tour highlighted by a deployment to the U.S. 5th and U.S. 7th Fleets.

Additionally, O’Kane completed a rigorous training cycle with the unit level training and readiness assessment (ULTRA) and highly successful ballistic

missile defense testing during a Missile Defense Agency flight test (FTX-16) and FTM-15.

Lauding Trinke’s accomplishments during his command, the guest speaker, Capt. David Welch, commander of Destroyer Squadron 31, noted the pride with which O’Kane conducted all tasking throughout Trinke’s tour.

Whether successfully exercising O’Kane’s ballistic missile defense capabilities, devoting long hours to topside preservation, or acting as respectful ambassadors without a single liberty incident over a seven-month deployment, the crew excelled under his sterling and unflappable leadership, Welch noted.

Recalling his tenure on O’Kane, Trinke shared that the past two years were the best of his five afloat tours. He cited Boatswain’s Mate 1st Class (SW) Francisco Hernden’s enthusiasm, Electronics Technicians 2nd Class (SW) Jason Pierce’s technical expertise, Culinary Specialist 3rd Class (SW) Dontavia Timmon’s fine marksmanship, and Lt. j.g.

Stacy Smith’s superb shiphandling as among the countless individual achievements he observed while in command.

As the new commanding officer of O’Kane, Ray, O’Kane’s former executive officer, expressed his enthusiasm about his new position. “It has been, and will continue to be, a distinct honor for me to introduce myself as an O’Kane Sailor. I will continue to push you to meet and exceed the highest of standards,” Ray said.

He thanked Trinke and his wife Heather. “The absolute and tireless excellence with which you have served this crew and the Navy for the past two years, you have made O’Kane a better ship and me a better officer. Thank you,” Ray said.

Trinke, a native of Holliston, Mass., graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy. Prior to fleet-ing-up as O’Kane’s commanding officer, he served as O’Kane’s executive officer and had command experience in MHC Crew Valor and MHC Crew Excel. His next assignment will be with the joint staff in Washington, D.C.

COMPACAF visits alma mater

Gen. Gary North, Pacific Air Forces commander and former Private 1st Class Robert Lee Cherry share a laugh before the Veterans Day parade in Greenville, N.C., on Nov. 11. Cherry, now 88 years old, was born and raised in Greenville and fought in the Battle of the Bulge during World War II. According to a local veteran’s organization, Greenville is home to more than 15,000 veterans.

U.S. Air Force photo by
 Capt. Matt Schreff



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Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



U.S. Air Force photo by SrA Lauren Main
 (Left) President Barack Obama greets Airmen and their families as he prepares to depart Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, following the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conferences in Honolulu on Nov. 15. The Airmen selected to be a part of the crowd to meet President Obama were selected based on merit and a job well done.



U.S. Navy photograph by MC2 Daniel Barker
 Sailors aboard guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) participate in safety operations during training as part of the integrated maritime exercise Koa Kai. O'Kane is joining in Koa Kai with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) helicopter destroyer JS Kurama (DDH 144) to prepare independent deployers in multiple warfare areas and provide training in a multi-ship environment.



U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Dustin W. Sisco
 A Sailor from the guided-missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG-70) greets his family for the first time since being underway on a seven-month independent deployment. While on deployment, Hopper conducted ballistic missile defense operations, as well as maritime interdiction operations and theater security cooperation, supporting the nation's maritime strategy.



U.S. Air Force photo by SrA Lauren Main
 The 15th Wing flightline at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam hosted more than 21 foreign aircraft from various countries during the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation conference Nov. 12. APEC is the premier economic forum in the Asia-Pacific region.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico
 Ensign Matthew Lai, Ensign Hyungik Kim and Lt. j.g. Long Tran, all assigned aboard USS Hopper (DDG 70), gather at the "Welcome Home USS Hopper" sign outside the Makalapa Gate at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) on Nov. 16. Hopper returned to JBPHH after a seven-month independent deployment conducting ballistic missile defense operations, as well as maritime interdiction operations and theater security cooperation.

USS Cheyenne hosts distinguished visitor embark

Story and photo by
MC2 Ronald Gutridge

Commander Submarine Force
U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs
Office

Rick Kaysen, mayor of Cheyenne, Wyo., and guests boarded the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) on Nov. 8 for a special distinguished visitor embark to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the submarine's commissioning.

Once on board Cheyenne, the namesake city guests received a warm welcome and began to learn about life aboard the submarine. Shortly after Cheyenne departed, all guests were briefed on general safety procedures and received a basic overview on the mission and history of Cheyenne.

"It is such a pleasure to have the mayor and guests from the city that we represent on board with us today and the opportunity to demonstrate the capabilities of what this submarine and, more importantly, what her crew does on a daily basis to protect our country," said Cmdr. Gary Rogeness, commanding officer, Cheyenne. "Not all submarines have



Rick Kaysen, mayor of Cheyenne, Wyo., looks through the periscope on the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) during a special distinguished visitor embark Nov. 8 to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the submarine's commissioning. Distinguished visitor embarks provide an opportunity for dignitaries to share the experience of being underway on a Navy vessel and to get a better understanding of naval operations.

as good a relationship with their namesake city as we do. It is truly an honor to have their support and appreciation."

Throughout the day, the guests were able to participate in numerous events, such as observing the sea

from atop of the sail, enjoying a meal on the mess decks, and observing submarine operations from the control center, all of which will familiarize them with what a submariner experiences on a daily basis.

"It is such an honor to be with

these Sailors that represent our city and carry that city's name throughout the oceans and across the globe," Kaysen said. "The most impressive thing about this visit is the people that make this submarine work. The pride they have in carrying out their motto, 'Ride the Legend,' and the level of confidence and professionalism is truly amazing and makes me proud to be a resident of Cheyenne and an American," he said.

The crew demonstrated various submarine maneuvers including "angles and dangles" which test the integrity of the submarine's interior safety by making sure everything is tied down and secure. They also witnessed the notional firing of a torpedo, which allowed the guests to hear and feel the effects of the firing blast without actually discharging a weapon.

"I think it is great that the folks from Cheyenne, Wyo. took the time to visit us and experience first hand what we do," said Electronics Technician 2nd Class (SS) Jason Wright. "After hearing about all the history of Cheyenne, Wyo., they get to see how we make history."

At the conclusion of the cruise, participants who completed their honorary submariner personal

qualification standard card were recognized during an awards ceremony. Awardees received certificates presented to them by Senior Chief Electronics Technician (SS) Michael Hinkle, Cheyenne chief of the boat, and a photo of themselves on the cruise in remembrance of their visit to Cheyenne.

"I really didn't know what to expect being that this was my first time on a submarine, but the crew did an outstanding job answering all of my questions and explaining the submarine," said Tara Hinsch from Cheyenne, Wyo. "It really gives me a deeper appreciation for not only submariners, but all of the men and women serving in the military and protecting our country."

Cheyenne is the third ship of the United States Navy to be named for Cheyenne, Wyo. The contract to build her was awarded to Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company in Newport News, Va. on Nov. 28, 1989, and her keel was laid down July 6, 1992. She was launched on April 16, 1995 and commissioned Sept. 13, 1996 with Cmdr. Peter H. Ozimik in command. Cheyenne transferred to her homeport of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in 1998.

'Stealing steals from us all': AAFES loss prevention office discourages shoplifting

Staff Sgt. Carolyn Herrick

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam
Public Affairs

The Army and Air Forces Exchange Service at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, has caught more shoplifters this year than they have in the past, thanks to a new \$200,000 camera system, according to the loss prevention office – and they are working hard now to not only catch but also reduce shoplifting.

Ed McIntyre, the AAFES loss prevention manager for all of Oahu, Maui and the Big Island and Samoa, said "intervention is prevention."

"Our goal is to reduce the number of shoplifting incidents by making the community more aware of what the consequences will be," he said.

So far in 2011, the JBPHH



U.S. Air Force photo by SrA Lauren Main

Natalio Samuya monitors more than 85 different cameras a day to ensure loss prevention at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Army-Air Force Exchange Services.

AAFES stores have caught 34 shoplifters, totaling \$1,810. Oahu-wide, that number spikes

to more than 200 cases.

"We've been fortunate to catch more this year, and we prose-

cute everyone 10 years old and older," said McIntyre, who said he has seen it all working this job.

The demographics for shoplifters vary, he said. He has caught active-duty members of all ranks, retirees, dependents, and kids – and they all face the consequences. Children go before a juvenile review board and are subject to community service, fines and essays; adults can face even heavier consequences. Everyone who is caught loses their AAFES shopping privileges for at least six months.

Although more people have been caught this year, overall there has been a military-wide decrease in theft at Army and Air Force Exchange Service facilities of 8.5 percent last year, from 5,950 incidents in 2009 to 5,444 last year, according to a

Nov. 7 news release by AAFES Public Affairs.

"First and foremost, we want to prevent shoplifting," McIntyre said. "It's a proven fact that one out of four kids under the age of 18 shoplifts. I'm asking that the community becomes more involved: schools, churches, scouting organizations, juvenile review boards, teen centers and anyone who can help show consequences – it's a good deterrent."

The exchange has contributed more than \$2.4 billion to Air Force Services and Army IMCOM, G-9, family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs in the past 10 years, according to AAFES Public Affairs.

"Stealing steals from us all. We want to make your shopping experience the best for you," McIntyre said.

USS Reuben James Sailors lend helping hand to needy



Sailors from USS Reuben James (FFG 57) volunteered at the River of Life Mission on Nov. 1. River of Life serves breakfast, lunch and dinner to the needy in the community.

Ensign Damon Goodrich-Houska

USS Reuben James (FFG 57)

Sailors from USS Reuben James (FFG 57) and their family members volunteered at River of Life Mission on Nov. 1 to provide meals to those in need.

Senior Chief Navy Counselor (SW) Johannes Gonzales, Reuben James' command senior chief, expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to help out. "[It's] another great oppor-

tunity for our Sailors to share that ohana spirit that makes being stationed in Hawaii so special. Assisting and helping others is part of our mission, and to be able to do this locally is truly a tremendous opportunity," Gonzales said.

The River of Life Mission regularly serves breakfast, lunch and dinner to several hundred people from all walks of life.

"I was really impressed that the chapel has been able to provide over 200 of Hawaii's less fortunate citi-

zens with three meals a day, purely from donations and volunteers," said Ensign Jennifer George.

"It was great to see so many of the Reuben James crew, Sailors from other commands, and civilian volunteers dedicating their time to make this small gesture a successful one," said Cmdr. Luis Alva, Reuben James' executive officer.

The River of Life Mission welcomes all volunteers. For more information, visit www.riveroflifemission.org or call 524-7656 and ask for Tracy.

School class thanks veterans

(Editor's note: The following is a letter addressed "to a Navy veteran" and received at the Hookele office.)

Nov. 11, 2011
Dear Navy veterans,
Many of you have served overseas, and whatever your role was, it helped in

one way or another. You've served our nation with bravery and dedication.

Thank you for everything you've done for our country!

We truly appreciate it, Mrs. Stockard's AP U.S. history class." (Olympia High School, Orlando, Fla.)

Diamond Tips

Sponsorship Master Sgt. Jeff Birkland
8 IS First Sergeant

Imagine graduating basic training and technical training, then PCSing overseas when you had never spent a day outside of your hometown. That is a very common occurrence here in the Air Force and with all our sister services.

Many of our young folks are straight out of training and are expected to be able to know what it takes to move to a strange place. They don't yet know what their place is in the every day mission and haven't gained the experience outside of their structured military life. This is where a strong sponsor can make all the difference in the world.

Our job, once we are assigned as a sponsor, is to do anything possible to help our inbound Airmen, whether it is their first or last duty

station. Don't think that sending a sponsor pack is enough. Yes, it is full of great information but there is nothing better than actual communication. Make sure you call them right away, then continue making contact routinely until they arrive. It helps alleviate some of their stress plus provides you with key information on their travel plans that you will need to know.

Here are a few examples of information you should be trying to obtain:

1. Projected departure/arrival date.
2. Training dates for additional training.
3. Information on leave if they are planning to take it.
4. Flight times and itineraries.
5. Marital status and dependent status.

As soon as your inbound Airman gets orders, you should ask for a copy. This will help

you get them on either the base housing or dormitory waiting list if there is one. You will also be able to get them a temporary address so they can start forwarding any mail prior to their departure.

The easiest way to make sure that you do a great job as a sponsor is to provide inbound personnel with the information and support that you would want if you and your family were PCSing. There is no such thing as too much information and support.

One final thought: "Sponsorship doesn't end when the Airmen arrives." Make sure you are available after they get to base to help them settle in and get familiar with the area and their place in our Air Force.

(Diamond Tips are provided by Air Force first sergeants to address concerns in the Air Force community and provide guidance to Airmen.)

Podcasts help Airmen understand workforce shaping initiatives

Debbie Gildea

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas -- From hiring controls to voluntary separation initiatives, the civilian workforce footprint is changing. Air Force Personnel Center officials are working to provide easy-to-digest information to the workforce.

To help Airmen under-

stand how they are or may be affected by workforce shaping initiatives, the AFPC Civilian Force Integration Directorate has developed several podcasts that describe ongoing initiatives, said Michelle LoweSolis, civilian force integration director.

The podcasts cover information that ranges from voluntary early retirement authority and voluntary separation incentive pay to reduction in force and

transfer of function.

"Our goal is to provide a readily-understandable overview of topics that are often discussed in a very technical and complex manner," LoweSolis said. "These short videos will help employees better understand voluntary separation options as well as how the reduction in force process works."

The podcasts are accessible on the Air Force Personnel Services website at <http://access.afpc.af.mil/>.

USS Chafee gets trained and ready in Koa Kai 12-1

Story and photo by
MCSN Sean Furey

Navy Public Affairs
Element West Det. Hawaii

PACIFIC OCEAN – The guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) participated in the bi-annual integrated maritime exercise Koa Kai 12-1 in the Hawaiian operating area Nov. 10-17, 2011.

Koa Kai 12-1 is a multi-ship maritime exercise that helps prepare independent naval deployers in multiple warfare areas. It incorporates intermediate and advanced level exercises in multi-ship surface, aircraft, and submarine exercises.

“This is a way for us to get the advance training that are afforded to ships in other home ports such as San Diego or Norfolk,” said Cmdr. Justin Kubu, the commanding officer of Chafee. “It’s an opportunity for the ships based out of Pearl Harbor to receive some of that advanced training.”

Also participating in Koa Kai 12-1 is the guided-missile destroyer USS O’Kane (DDG 77), the guided-missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37), the underway replenishment ship USNS Washington Chambers (T-AKE 11), assets from Helicopter Squadron Light 37 and Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 2, the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force helicopter destroyer JS Kurama (DDH 144) and the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF).

Operations Specialist 1st



Class Michael S. Bell described Koa Kai as an essential way to help train the ships and her crew for real world operations.

“The exercises that take place during Koa Kai are instrumental training tools for the ships home-ported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii,” Bell said. “Air warfare, surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, and force

protection exercises continue to test the ships abilities to defend themselves and others in various situations. This advanced training also allows watchstanders to think through problems clearly and make appropriate decisions for the situation going on at that moment. Independent naval deployers must be proficient in each warfare

area in order to be able to complete multiple missions and protect the ship and her crew while they are deployed.”

Sailors aboard the Chafee got the chance to be involved in evolutions such as man overboard drills; visit, board, search, and seizure exercises, and live weapons fire, among others. Practicing those evolu-

tions allow the sailors to receive valuable training and focus on core surface warfare skill sets to prepare Sailors for western Pacific deployments, according to Kubu.

“I think this a great opportunity, it’s an awfully complex evolution, but very well put together,” Kubu said. “I think we are extremely fortunate to have

this exercise, particularly as we get ready to head into the operational theater.”

Koa Kai 12-1 demonstrates the U.S. Navy’s capability to provide battle-ready ships and units to maintain a presence in the western Pacific that helps preserve peace and security, and further maritime partnerships with friends and allies.

WHO’OKELE Online
PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

<http://www.hookelenews.com/> or visit

<https://www.cnmc.navy.mil/Hawaii/index.htm>



Navy celebrates American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month

Ensign Amber Lynn Daniel

Chief of Naval Personnel
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) - The Navy joined the nation in celebrating American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month, which is being observed through Nov. 30.

This month celebrates the cultures, histories and traditions of the indigenous peoples of North America, including parts of Alaska and the island state of Hawaii, and recognizes the significant contributions these first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the United States.

According to the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs, there are 565 federally recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Natives in the United States, composed of nearly 4.5 million American Indians and Alaska Natives, or 1.5 percent of the nation's population.

Today more than 15,000 Sailors and 1,280 civilians of Native American and Alaska native heritage serve in the Navy. According to Dr. Regina Akers, director of the diversity project at the Naval History and



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Mark Logico

Native American Dr. David Bevett performs a traditional intertribal dance during last year's Native American heritage observance at Lockwood Hall on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. This year's Joint Base observance will be held Nov. 29 at the Hickam Memorial Theater starting at 10:30 a.m.

Heritage Command, the legacy of service of American Indians and Alaska Natives can be traced back to our nation's founding.

"These members have made significant contributions to the growth and development of the United States and to its national defense since the 18th century," Akers said. "Since 1776, when George Washington began enlisting them for his fledgling Army, Navy and Marines, American Indians have contributed their fighting spirit and warrior ethos to help U.S. forces defend America's national interests."

Native American seamen served on continental and state vessels during the War of Independence, and many Native American tribes served alongside U.S. troops in the War of 1812. During the civil war, as many as 20,000 Native Americans contributed to both Union and Confederate forces as auxiliary troops.

This legacy of service continued during the 20th century. Despite being ineligible for the draft in 1917, as many as 15,000 American Indians enlisted during World War I, and more than 44,000 American Indians, com-

prising nearly 13 percent of the Native American population at the time, fought in World War II, including 1,910 Sailors, several dozen Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) and 874 Marines.

Among them were the Navajo Code Talkers, who took part in every assault the U.S. Marines conducted in the Pacific from 1942 to 1945 and transmitted messages by telephone and radio in their native language, a code that the Japanese never broke. Rear Adm. Joseph J. Clark, the first Native American graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy in 1917, was the first Native American to attain the rank of admiral.

American Indians and Alaska Natives continued to serve after World War II. Between 10,000 and 15,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives fought in the Korean War and during the Cold War, including Shirley M. Arviso, a Navajo of Bitter Water Clan and a naval communications officer, who supervised the decryption of classified messages from 1953 to 1963. Later in the decade, 41,500 American Indians, more than 90 percent of them volunteers, fought in

the Vietnam War.

The 20th century also saw several American Indian and Alaska Native firsts for women. In 1981, Sara Hinds became the first female Native American midshipman to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy. In 1998, Misty Dawn Warren enlisted in the Navy and is believed to be the first American Indian woman to be designated as a naval test parachutist.

Also during the 20th century, three Sailors of American Indian heritage received the Medal of Honor, including Navy Cmdr. Ernest E. Evans, who was awarded the medal posthumously for his actions during the Battle off Samar while commanding USS Johnston (DD-557) on Oct. 25, 1944.

For more information about American Indians and Alaska Natives in the Navy, visit the Naval History and Heritage Command, at <http://1.usa.gov/vCm0jE>.

A presentation is also available from the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, <http://bit.ly/t7rO27>.

This year's Joint Base observance will be held Nov. 29 at the Hickam Memorial Theater starting at 10:30 a.m.

Commissaries holiday schedule announced for joint base

The following holiday schedule is observed for the remainder of this year for both Hickam and Pearl Harbor Commissaries.

- Nov. 23 - Hickam Commissary opens at 9 a.m. and closes at 8 p.m. Pearl Harbor commissary opens at 9 a.m. and closes at 9 p.m.
- Nov. 24 - Both Hickam and Pearl Harbor Commissaries are closed.
- Nov. 25 - Hickam Commissary opens at 10 a.m. and closes at 6 p.m. Pearl Harbor Commissary opens at 9 a.m. and closes at 6 p.m.

- Dec. 24 - Hickam Commissary opens at 10 a.m. and closes at 6 p.m. Pearl Harbor Commissary opens at 8 a.m. and closes at 6 p.m.
- Dec. 25 - Both Hickam and Pearl Harbor Commissaries are closed.
- Dec. 31 - Hickam Commissary opens at 8 a.m. and closes at 8 p.m. Pearl Harbor Commissary opens at 8 a.m. and closes at 7 p.m.
- Jan. 1 - Both Hickam and Pearl Harbor Commissaries are closed.

Native American Heritage Month Observance planned for Nov. 29

The Navy Region Hawaii Multi-Cultural Committee will present a Native American Heritage Month Observance from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Nov. 29 at the Hickam Memorial Theatre.

Guest speakers are James Neuman, Navy Region Hawaii historian and Rosanna Prieto, Honolulu Inter-Tribal Powwow Committee.

Military and civilians are strongly encouraged to attend.

Military should wear uniform of the day and civilians should wear aloha attire.

Attendees should be seated by 10:20 a.m.

The theme of Native American Heritage Month 2011 is "Service, Honor, Respect: Strengthening Our Cultures and Communities."

For more information, contact LSC (AW/SW) Ebony Pinnock at 473-8000, ext. 5510 or email ebony.pinnock@navy.mil.

USS O'Kane participates in PASSEX with JMSDF

Ensign Katherine Kazimer

USS O'Kane (DDG 77)
Public Affairs

On Oct. 13 USS O'Kane (DDG 77) had the opportunity to participate in a PASSEX (passing exercise) with Japanese ships, JDS Kashima, JDS Asagiri and JDS Mineyuki. The ships conducted helicopter operations, RAS (replenishment at sea) approaches and formation steaming for photos in front of Diamond Head.

Additionally, three of O'Kane's junior officers and one chief petty officer spent the day aboard the Japanese ships, while four Japanese ensigns toured O'Kane.

The morning began with the exchange of the junior officers. "Their navy is obviously steeped in lots of traditions, customs and honors just like ours. This was demonstrated by their act of professionalism, discipline and courtesy they showed, both on board by the exchange personnel and those on their own ship, while we were along-



JDS Mineyuki, JDS Kashima, USS O'Kane and JDS Asagiri steam in formation in front of Diamond Head during PASSEX.
U.S. Navy photo by ISC (SW) Darnell Jones

side for the RAS approaches," said Ensign Nicholas Abelein, O'Kane's first lieutenant and one of the four running mates for the Japanese ensigns.

"I thought the whole experience was both educational and enlightening for both sides and look forward to any future interactions with our friends across the

Pacific," he said.

Ensign Daniel Pappas, another running mate, said he found the entire experience rewarding. "Each Japanese sailor was able to teach me different aspects of their cultural and naval traditions while simultaneously demonstrating unmatched enthusiasm and excitement to be on board the

USS O'Kane," Pappas said.

The watch teams on the bridge and the combat information center (CIC) shared the same excitement. Once underway, all four ships began passing tactical signals. The watch teams on the bridge and in the CIC competed to be the first to decrypt them. These signals were

used for all of the operations: flight operations, replenishment at sea operations and formation steaming.

"The experience was everything I expected. It reconfirmed why I joined the United States Navy. Even though it was a one-day event, I wished I would have had the opportunity to stay longer," said Lt. j.g. Mark Rittenhouse, O'Kane's training officer, about the time he spent on JDS Kashima.

O'Kane set up for the RAS approaches as the guide ship. During a RAS, the ships come in as close as 160 feet apart and steer parallel courses. One style of replenishment, the connected replenishment (CONREP), employs a system of lines and blocks (pulleys) rigged between the two ships. The shot line is the first line across. On O'Kane, it is usually fired from a rifle.

The first approach ship, JDS Kashima, employed a very different technique. One sailor leaned over the lifelines on the bow while swinging the shotline in a large arc, as though it was a propeller. It was

launched over to O'Kane. The other two ships used a mortar to propel the shotline across.

"I especially liked doing the RAS approaches with them and thought the heaving of the bolo line from the bullnose of their ship was especially cool," Abelein said.

Upon completion of the RAS approaches, the ships proceeded east to assemble in front of Diamond Head for the photo shoot. The ships sailed much closer to one another than during the RAS approaches. The photos were taken from the JDS Kashima's helicopter by Chief Intelligence Specialist (SW) Darnell Jones. To end the formation, the ships peeled out in a fleur de lis pattern.

One final set of flight operations was conducted to return the exchanged Sailors to their respective ships. Then the Japanese ships formed in a column to pass by O'Kane for a final farewell before sailing into the setting sun toward Japan. O'Kane rendered honors as the band aboard Kashima played "Stars and Stripes Forever."

Risk of acquiring leptospirosis can be reduced

Lt. Cmdr. Michael J. Oras, Preventive Medicine Officer

Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit Six

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that affects humans and animals. It occurs worldwide, most commonly in tropical cli-

mates. Between 1998 and 2008, 345 cases were reported in Hawaii, which is more than any other state.

Leptospirosis is spread through the urine of infected animals. Humans become infected most commonly during recreational activities such as swimming or wading in contaminated pools, rivers or lakes, but it

can also be acquired through contact with contaminated food or soil, or drinking contaminated water. The disease cannot be passed from person to person.

Infection with leptospirosis can cause a wide range of symptoms. Some people with infection show no symptoms. Others experience symptoms similar to

the flu, with fever, headache, muscle aches, nausea and vomiting, and diarrhea. They may also have a skin rash. These symptoms can last from a few days to three weeks or longer.

Approximately 10 percent of people who are infected go on to develop severe disease. These patients often require hos-

pitalization because of kidney damage, inflammation of the membrane surrounding the brain, liver failure or respiratory distress.

The risk of acquiring leptospirosis can be greatly reduced by not swimming or wading in water that might be contaminated with animal urine and not drinking untreated water from a contaminated source.

If exposed to a potentially contaminated source, showering immediately and washing hands before smoking or eating will also reduce the likelihood of getting the infection. Leptospirosis can be treated with common antibiotics and early treatment reduces the chances that severe symptoms will develop.

Deployed JBPHH Sailor earns award in Afghanistan

Air Force Capt. David Tomiyama

Provincial Reconstruction Team Khost Public Affairs

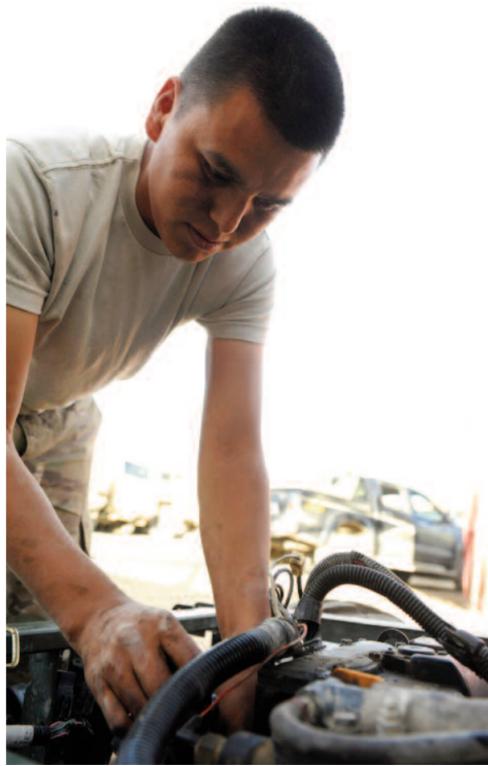
KHOST PROVINCE, Afghanistan – A service member deployed to Afghanistan is often considered a hero in the U.S.

While the average person might take their “hero” status and sit on their laurels, Navy Engineman 2nd Class Richard Garcia, a Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard engine shop mechanic from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, is making a real difference in supporting the provincial reconstruction team (PRT) mission of connecting the Afghan people with their government.

Garcia was named the PRT Khost Warrior of the Week for Oct. 9-15 and given the PRT commanding officer and sergeant major coin during a short ceremony at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan on Oct. 15. The vehicle mechanic is currently serving as a member of PRT Khost in the Khost Province of Afghanistan.

“It feels good to get an award from the PRT,” he said. “It means I’m doing a good job.”

According to his citation, Garcia “researched, designed and tested a preventive maintenance checks and services (PMCS) program for 14 MRAP vehicles, ensuring early detection and repair of vehicle discrepancies and providing improved vehicle availability for combat missions. He developed a comprehensive tracking system that carefully documented time, tools, equip-



ment, personnel and consumable resources needed for complete vehicle PMCS.

By providing a single source for all field level preventive maintenance, he reduced maintenance man-hours by 25 percent while improving vehicle reliability and reducing required corrective maintenance actions.”

“EN2 Garcia is a hard worker and is well deserved of the recognition,” said Senior Chief Petty Officer James Center, PRT Khost lead mechanic and Navy senior enlisted leader. “The project he did was needed, and he did it with little supervision. He produced a

quality product.”

PRT Khost is made up of more than 85 Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen and civilians.

The PRT conducts counter-insurgency operations, partnering with provincial and district leadership in order to develop critical infrastructure, education and economic initiatives, and increase the legitimacy and accountability of the Afghan government to the people, enabling reintegration and ultimately allowing transition to occur with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Shipyard aims to raise \$716,000 for charity as part of CFC

Marshall Fukuki

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard workers gave more than \$700,000 to charities during last year’s Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). This year they are being challenged to beat that amount by one percent and reach or exceed a financial goal of \$716,278.

The shipyard’s CFC drive began Oct. 3 and continues to Nov. 18. It is part of an annual fund-raising effort throughout the U.S. government and is the only authorized solicitation conducted by federal employees in the workplace on behalf of multiple charitable organizations.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of CFC. It was established in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy and is the reason for the 2011 campaign slogan, “50

Years of Giving.”

Brendan Cravalho, a manager in the Production resources department, heads the shipyard’s CFC for the 11th straight year. The challenge to raise \$700,000-plus in a month and a half doesn’t faze him. Instead, he emphasized to his keyperson campaign assistants to make 100 percent face-to-face contact of every employee in the shipyard. “When you do that, big things happen,” he said.

Cravalho also encourages his fellow shipyarders to consider giving through payroll deduction. This method enables employees to space out their donations throughout calendar year 2012 instead of having to come up with their total pledge amount all at once. “It’s an easy way to give,” he said. “A little (amount), given regularly, becomes a lot.”

CFC introduced a couple of new twists this year, one of which is online giving at

a secure website. In an effort to cut costs and go “green,” CFC also cut back on the number of printed charity list booklets so donors have to share them instead of having their own copies. As an alternative, the booklet information is available online.

As for the question, “Why give to CFC?” Cravalho said, “Just turn on the TV.” The news is full of events, causes and people requiring support, he explained. He personally donates to CFC “because I can,” he said. Your situation in life can change overnight, he noted, and the organizations you support today might be the ones helping you tomorrow.

The Hawaii Pacific Combined Federal Campaign is coming to a close Nov. 18. Anyone interested in contributing to CFC can contact their command’s key person. For more information: hawaii_cfc@apan-info.net.

KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawaii Navy News upcoming segments

Nov. 24 – Thanksgiving (no show)

Dec. 1 – Tower lighting at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

Dec. 8 – Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard

Dec. 15 – Toys for Tots

Dec. 22 – Boot Camp for New Dads

(The segments currently air between 6:20 and 6:30 a.m. each Thursday. Previous segments can be viewed at <http://www.bit.ly/KHONNavy>)

Got a story for KHON Hawaii Navy News?

Email editor@hookelenews.com or call Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs at 473-2875. Stories must have a Navy tie and be of interest to the general public.

HO'OKELE Online

<http://www.hookelenews.com> or <https://www.cnrc.navy.mil/hawaii>